

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 05566 091241Z

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ACTION MMO-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 SSO-00 EB-07 SS-15 SP-02 PER-01

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2087

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, XF

SUBJECT: MODE - AGRICULTURE/FAS PROPOSAL TO ASSIGN ATTACHE IN
ARABIAN PENINSULA IN FY 1977

REF: STATE 181323

1. WE WELCOME THE POSSIBILITY THAT AN AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE MAY
BE ASSIGNED TO JIDDA. SAUDI ARABIA IS THE MOST PROSPEROUS NATION
ON THE ARABIAN PENINSULA AND THE SECOND MOST POPULOUS ONE. DUE TO
ITS BOOMING ECONOMIC GROWTH AND BECAUSE ITS PEOPLE HAVE
ALREADY BEEN WIDELY EXPOSED TO A VARIETY OF AMERICAN FOODS,
WE BELIEVE SAUDI ARABIA WILL CONTINUE TO BE THE BEST MARKET
FOR FOOD STUFFS IN THIS AREA, AND A GOOD VENUE FOR AN AG ATTACHE.

2. AIR CONNECTIONS BETWEEN JIDDA AND THE SURROUNDING ARAB
COUNTRIES ARE NOW GOOD AND SAUDIA AIRLINES IS FEVERISHLY EX-
PANDING ITS SERVICE. TWO NEW TRISTARS HAVE BEEN DELIVERED,
WITH MORE TO FOLLOW THIS YEAR, PLUS OTHER AIRCRAFT WHICH
MAY BE ADDED TO THE SAUDIA FLEET. THUS, THE AGRICULTURAL
ATTACHE SHOULD HAVE NO DIFFICULTY IN COMMUTING FROM
JIDDA. WHEREVER THE AG ATTACHE SITS, JIDDA--AS SAUDI ARABIA'S
COMMERCIAL CENTER -- WOULD BE IN IMPORTANT CENTER OF ACTIVITY.

3. SAUDI ACTIVITY IN BANKROLLING SOME OF ITS NEIGHBORS

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AND ITS EFFORT TO INVEST MONEY IN FEEDER AGRICULTURAL

PROJECTS IN THE SUDAN AND ELSEWHERE, ALSO MAKE JIDDA

A CENTER FOR AGRICULTURAL ENTREPRENEURS SEEKING JOINT
VENTURE CAPITAL.

4. A FEW PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS: THE PHYSICAL
AMENITIES OF JIDDA AS A BASE ARE IMPROVING, THERE IS A GOOD SCHOOL
THROUGH THE 9TH GRADE, AND ACCESS TO A GOOD HOSPITAL (WHITTAKER)
FOR ANY EMERGENCIES. AS FOR EMBASSY ITSELF, OUR AVAILABLE SPACE IS
FULL UP, AND WE ASSUME DEPT OF STATE AND AGRICULTURE COULD WORK OUT
ADDITION TO CHANCERY OF EXTRA OFFICE SPACE REQUIRED.
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